Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen *(Kattur)*.—Do they maintain those grazing grounds?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar)*.—They exist as open grounds and cattle can go there. They are registered as grazing grounds.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Adur)*.—Is there grass there?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar)*.—In the way in which we can expect in those places and according to the seasons.

Areca plantation in the State.

112. **Mr. K. T. Mathew** *(Kunnamkulam)*.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) the area under areca plantation in the State;

(b) the total investment in the areca plantation in the State;

(c) the total quantity of arecanut annually produced in the State;

(d) the total value of arecanut annually produced in the State;

(e) whether the letters dated 17th July and 30th September last addressed to the Diwan of Cochin regarding the price of arecanut by the Member for Kunnamkulam be printed and placed on the table;

(f) what steps have been taken by the Government to protect and safeguard the interests of the areca planters in the State?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar)*.—(a) 24,003·13 acres.

(b) No definite statistics are available.

(c) Roughly 13,20,000 Thulams of raw arecanuts.

(d) Rs. 26,40,000 approximately.

(e) The letters are placed on the Council Table.

(f) Government have with a view to secure steady and reasonable prices for the arecanut growers established markets at different centres and have put an end to the monopoly system wherever it prevailed. They have also systematised and regulated sales and collections at the markets. A co-operative

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marketing society has been opened at Peringandur. Its progress is being watched with a view to organise other associations which have as their object the affording of increased facilities for the marketing of arecanuts.

Mr. K. T. Mathew *(Kunnamkulam).*—Have the Government taken any steps to bring the matter to the attention of the Government of India?

Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar *(Secretary to Government).*—Government will consider the matter.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri).*—May I know whether they have also systematised and regulated sales and collections at the markets; If so what exactly has been done?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar).*—The great complaint with respect to the markets was "varal". That has been stopped there. The commission has also been standardised. The other condition is the slips. You can have no slips.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri).*—With regard to the system of credit-slips, my information is otherwise.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar).*—The slips are issued where the parties do want it. There are cases where the slips will be favourable to persons.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri).*—The sale on the slips is solicited by the person who takes the arecanut and the slip will be granted. Is it so?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishhar).*—Nothing prevents a man from disposing his wares on credit. Obviously you cannot compel a man not to sell his goods on credit.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri).*—Do your rules allow the party the right to get money in cash and not in slips?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar).*—If he wants it, then he can insist on the payment of money. If he is willing to give it on credit he can.

Mr. K. T. Mathew *(Kunnamkulam).*—No action has been taken to bring it to the notice of the Government of India. In the interests of the arecanut growers will the Government try to bring the matter to the notice of the Government of India?

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Mr. T. S. Narayana Ayyar (*Secretary to Government*).—Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*).—May I know whether the amount now fixed by the Government as commission is not in excess of what prevailed in the arecanut market previously?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*).—I do not think there is any increase. It has been reduced.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*).—Has the price of the commodity gone up?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon (*Director of Public Health and Panchayats*).—I want notice.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*).—With regard to the fixing of license fee due to the Government from each arecanut market holder, has not the price prevailing on the maket any bearing on the amount to be fixed by the Government?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*).—License fee is fixed at the beginning. It could not be changed even if the prices go down.

Mr. P. Kumaran Exhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*).—What is the basis for fixing the license fee?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon (*Director of Public Health and Panchayats*).—It is based on the commission., i. e., a commission of 3 as. is collected on every Thulam of arecanut.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*).—Before fixing this commission of 3 as, the commission in the Ottupara Market was only 4 as. But it is now raised to 4 as. 6 ps.

Dr. E. S. R. Menon (*Director of Public Health and Panchayats*).—It is not a fact.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Vadakkancheri*),—It is being collected there now. It is due to the circular of the Government with a small trick upon words. Formerly it was 4 as per Thulam of 1,500 rupees weight. Now it is 3 as per Thulam of 1,000 rupees weight, which is not the Thulam prevailing in the market. As a result the commission is raised to 4 as 6 ps. That is the benefit of the circular.

Dr. E. S. R. Menon (*Director of Public Health and Panchayats*)—Except in that market in all other places a Thulam

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means Rs. 1,000 weight. It was done in order that the same weight should prevail in all markets.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*.—May I know from the Government whether in the Ottupara market for a thulam of Rs. 1,500 weight the previous collection was only 4 as. while for the same weight 4 as. 6 ps. is now collected?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon *(Director of Public Health and Panchayats)*.—Now for all arecanut markets a Thulam means Rs. 1,000 weight.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*.—May I know whether in the Ottupara Market it is the same amount that is being collected for the same weight now?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon *(Director of Public Health and Panchayats)*.—4 as. was being collected for a thulam of a thousand rupees weight. Now it is reduced to 3 as.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*.—I speak about the Ottupara Market. Instead of 4 as. formerly collected, the party is now collecting 4 as. 6 ps., i. e., a loss of 6 ps. to the arecanut grower.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar)*.—Arecanut grower was paying 4 as. at other markets. It was reduced to 3 as. It was also given to the Ottupara man. He was not specially penalised.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*.—There is a large volume of complaint from the arecanut growers that where they used to pay only 4 as. they are compelled to pay 4 as. 6. ps. and that therefore works hardship upon them.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar)*.—The complaint is without foundation, except the Ottupara Market. Because formerly every man was paying 6 as. for a weight of one thousand rupees, but now he has to pay only 4 as. 6 ps. everywhere.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancherri)*.—Which is the other market?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar)*.—The Veloor market. He was paying 6 as. there. Now the position is that in every market a uniform rate of 4 as. 6 ps. for every thousand five hundred rupees weight is laid.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Adur)*.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether whatsoever be the parties, so far a

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the customers of the Ottupara market are concerned, the effect of the circular has been to raise the commission from 4 as. to 4 as. 6 ps.?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar)*.—While there was a general lowering elsewhere, there might have been a slight rise at that market.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam)*.—Has not that resulted in a hardship for the persons?

Mr. President.—This is the first time that I hear of this information.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam)*.—Will the Government be pleased to do the needful to relieve the distress of the arecanut-growers at the Ottupara Market?

Mr. President.—The intention of the circular was to bring about an all-round reduction in the various markets. But this has worked in such a way in one particular market. It is really more than what it was. It was not the intention of Government to raise it. But the license has been granted. Surely this must have been known to the arecanut growers. They have not complained up till now. I am hearing of this complaint for the first time today.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*.—It is true that it was not placed before the Government by means of petitions.

Mr. President.—Is the license granted on that basis?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar)*.—Yes. There are ever so many markets where 6 as. used to be given. It has come down to 4½ as.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam)*.—A larger amount of business is done in the Ottupara market than anywhere else in the State. It is the particular market that has to be taken into consideration.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancherri)*.—What is the rate of commission in the recently opened market at Kurancheri?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Diwan Peishkar)*.—As compared to the markets of the whole State the Ottupara Market will stand by itself. But the particulars of the Kurancheri, I cannot say.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*.—The complaint is that at the Ottupara Market, the arecanut-growers

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are paying more than what they were previously paying. The statement of the Government is that at the Kurancheri Market and other places the rate of commission has been reduced. But the Ottupara Market will show something else.

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon (*Diwan Peishkar*).—In every other market, except this they have been prevented from collecting 6 as but only 4½ as.

Appangat Canal—Narakkal—opening of.

113. **Mr. George Parakkal** (*Narakkal*).—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether they have started work on the Appangat Canal at Narakkal;

(b) at what stage the scheme of the Appangat Canal lies;

(c) whether it would be possible for the Government to speed up work on the Appangat Canal scheme?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*).—(a) and (b) A portion of the lands required for opening the canal has been acquired. Urgent action is being taken to acquire the remaining portion also and to open the canal.

(c) Please see answer above.

Iyyattu Paramba Canal—Nayarambalam Village—opening of.

114. **Mr. George Parakkal** (*Narakkal*).—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether they have been approached for opening the Iyyattu Paramba Canal in the Nayarambalam village;

(b) whether they have prepared the approximate cost for opening the Iyyattu Paramba Canal;

(c) if the answer to sub division (b) of the question is in the affirmative, what that cost is;

(d) whether the Government will seriously consider the necessity of opening this canal for the benefit of the agriculturists?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon (*Chief Engineer*).—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

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